

Congressman Jesse L. Jackson Jr. today wholeheartedly welcomed Southworks Development to Chicago's South Shore community after the company announced an agreement to purchase 275 acres of the former USX Southworks site.

"This is the largest, undeveloped, urban lakefront property in the Midwest, and perhaps the nation. I am proud to say that it will once again be the economic heart of South Shore," said Jackson, who lives in the neighborhood.

"Redevelopment of the former U.S. Steel Southworks site has been one of my top priorities since being elected to Congress. During the past eight years, I have taken more than 200 persons on tours of the site, including gubernatorial candidates, Members of Congress, developers, bankers, industrialists and journalists," said Jackson.

"One major challenge to redeveloping the site has been its lack of quality road access and infrastructure. As a Member of Congress, I've been fortunate to secure federal funding to extend South Shore Drive onto the site, to rebuild Harbor Drive from the south, and to build new Metra commuter rail stations near the site," he said.

Four new Metra stations are completed. Earlier this year, the reconstructed Harbor Drive and 87th Street projects on the old mill site were completed. And construction of the new four-lane, divided South Shore Drive/U.S. 41 is scheduled to begin next year, Jackson said.

"I have always envisioned a mixed-use development at the site so I am glad to see that is what the developers are proposing. It is exciting to see that the old Southworks site, which once employed 20,000 residents, will once again be a bustling job-center and revenue-producing asset on our city's lakefront," Jackson said.